



December 10, 2007

OSSE Team,

We had our first (albeit short lived) snowfall for DC last Wednesday and I'm sure there's much more to come! As we all try to keep our homes warm during the winter season, it's important to take precautions against fires caused by home heating sources like space heaters, stoves, and furnaces. Please visit the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services website (<http://fems.dc.gov/fems/frames.asp?doc=/fems/lib/fems/pdf/furnaces.pdf>) where you find some useful safety tips to keep you and your family both warm and safe.

This Thursday, the State Board of Education will meet to consider the standards for health and physical education. There has been a lot of interest in these standards from the community and we received valuable feedback at last month's public hearing. This week's meeting will be open to the public and will be here at Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> St NW, ground floor, Old Council Chambers) starting at 5:30pm.

The DC Department of the Environment is establishing a "Green Team" which will be comprised of DC agency staff. The team will be tasked with implementing green strategies and programs to ensure that the DC government, and the District as a whole, becomes a model of environmental sustainability. We need 2-3 volunteers from the OSSE to be a part of this green team. It should be someone who is personally excited about sustainability efforts, has a personal interest in this matter, and who can take this on in addition to their current duties. So if you are that person that is always chastising others for putting white paper in the mixed paper container, you are notorious for diving into the OSSE trash cans to pull out a recyclable can or bottle, or you thought *An Inconvenient Truth* was robbed of an Academy Award for best picture, then you're exactly the kind of person the OSSE needs on this team! If this sounds like you, please contact Deputy Superintendent John Parham ([John.Parham@dc.gov](mailto:John.Parham@dc.gov)) to join the OSSE delegation to the Green Team.

As you may have heard, we will not be having the OSSE Winter Gala, it seemed that particular night wasn't really working for everyone. Not to worry, we still have the All Hands meeting next Wednesday (12/19) from 10:30am-12:30pm at Van Ness Elementary (1150 5th St SE, Navy Yard Metro stop)! It will be the last OSSE All Hands of 2007 and will provide us all with a good time to reflect on how far we've come as an agency in the short few months since October 1<sup>st</sup> and how far we have yet to go. We will also be revisiting our code of ethics discussion so come prepared to make OSSE history! Remember, the All Hands meetings are mandatory. If you are unable to attend, you will need to make arrangements with your supervisor. Also, we will be collecting **unwrapped** toys for the Health Services for Children Pediatric Center (formerly the Hospital for Sick Children, <http://www.hscpediatriccenter.org>) to give out to patients; please keep them in mind as you go about your holiday shopping this weekend.

Happy Holidays and enjoy the rest of your week!

*Deborah*

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